



THE WAVE

Lists for your revising pleasure!

LAURIE – WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO NOTE ABOUT HER?

- She's an individual
- She stands up for what she believes in
- She looks up to her mum as a role model
- She gets enemy written on her locker
- She's the only one who doesn't like The Wave
- “Just remember the popular thing is not always the right thing” – her mum says this to her
- She's seen as a leader at first until she rejects the Wave
- She writes a special edition for the Gordon Grapevine about The Wave
- “No-one is thinking for themselves anymore” – Laurie
- David's girlfriend
- She loses her boyfriend AND best friend Amy because she rejects the Wave



DAVID COLLINS?

- Laurie's boyfriend
- Believes in the Wave at first but eventually 'wakes up'
- Used the Wave in his football team
- Dedicated and a little bit naive
- Pushes Laurie on the ground, frustrated that she won't agree with him about the Wave, and finally 'sees the light'
- "But that was a long time ago, Laurie" (about Nazi Germany)
- "It happened once and the world learned its lesson. It'll never happen again" (ironic!)



BEN ROSS?

- “You would have all made good little Nazis”
- Begins to wear a suit as the Wave takes over his classroom
- Changes his style from a casual teacher and becomes more of a dictator
- Helps us understand the idea that power can be addictive
- “You’re becoming a guinea pig in your own experiment” – Christy Ross about him
- Popular teacher so it helps the Wave start rolling
- Everyone ‘bunks’ their classes to go to his
- Charismatic



ROBERT BILLINGS?

- Known as the ‘class creep’ / loser
- “For the first time in my life.. I feel like I’m part of something special.”
- “Laurie Saunders is a threat. She must be stopped”
- The last quote is said so bluntly it should give us warning that he is an intense character!
- Cries at the end when The Wave ends
- Doesn’t fit in until the Wave
- Took the Wave too seriously
- Offers to be Mr Ross’ bodyguard – intense!



THE IMPORTANCE OF STANDING UP FOR WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN?

- Laurie epitomises this theme (she is the prime example)
- “Well I want to go up and I don’t want to give the Wave salute” Laurie said angrily
- Laurie puts the anon. letter in the ed. of the Grapevine
- Mr Ross stood up for The Wave (what it stood for)
- Wider world – you can make changes in the world – e.g climate change. Barack Obama “it’s time for a change”



THE IDEA THAT POWER CAN BE ADDICTIVE?

- Mr Ross gets caught up in the momentum of The Wave
- “You’re becoming a guinea pig in your own experiment” – Christy Ross to him
- Some students get addicted to being in control and become militant
- “It was essential to the experiment that he maintain his image as leader of the Wave. Having a bodyguard could only enhance that image.”
- Wider world – so many dictators get caught up in their power, e.g Adolf Hitler.



THE IDEA THAT HISTORY CAN REPEAT ITSELF?

- “It’s something that happened a long time ago, to bothers me but it won't happen again” – David
- “You would have all made good little Nazis”
- “No-one would just follow an order like that!” – but it is ironic that that is exactly what happens!
- A student got beaten up just like he wouldn't join the Wave – he was also Jewish!! Just like Nazis beat up anyone who wouldn't listen to them
- Wider world: still wars going on today! So this lesson wasn't learnt back then either!
Afghanistan, Iraq...



THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIVIDUALITY?

- You can stand up for yourself and not follow
- “Just remember that the popular thing is not always the right thing” – Laurie’s mum
- Laurie can look up to her mum as a role model so she is an individual as her mum has raised her to be one
- Wider world – Laurie teaches us you can succeed if you only stick to your guns

